

Application No. 10/797,481

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CENTRAL FAX CENTER
JUL 26 2006AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1.-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A screw ~~for immobilization of a sacroiliac joint~~ comprising a shaft with threads and a tip, ~~the shaft having a taper of at least about 1 degree and a dimension suitable for insertion into a sacroiliac joint of a human patient~~ wherein the screw comprises a biocompatible material and a bioactive agent comprising bone morphogenic protein (BMP) or a cytokine effective to stimulate bone marrow growth.

13. (Original) The screw of claim 12 wherein the screw comprises a biocompatible metal.

14. (Original) The screw of claim 12 wherein the screw comprises a biocompatible polymer.

15. (Original) The screw of claim 12 wherein the taper is from about 2 degrees to about 30 degrees.

16. (Cancelled)

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17. (Original) The screw of claim 12 wherein the widest thickness is from about 1.4 mm to about 16 mm.
18. (Original) The screw of claim 12 wherein the tip comprises flutes to provide a self tapping ability to the screw.
19. (Original) The screw of claim 12 wherein the threads have a sharp cutting edge.
20. (Original) The screw of claim 12 wherein the screw comprises a central channel.
21. (Currently Amended) A method for immobilizing a patient's sacroiliac joint, the method comprising inserting an immobilization/fusion element ~~into a drilled area of~~ within the opening of the sacroiliac joint through a cannula that is placed through an incision formed in the patient to immobilize the sacroiliac joint.
22. (Original) The method of claim 21 further comprising drilling a region at the sacroiliac joint through the cannula.
23. (Original) The method of claim 21 further comprising placing a guide pin through the cannula.
24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the guide pin is place using real time imaging.

Please add new claims 25-36.

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25. (New) The screw of claim 12 wherein the bioactive agent comprises bone morphogenic protein.
26. (New) The screw of claim 12 wherein the bioactive agent comprises a cytokine effective to stimulate bone marrow growth.
27. (New) The screw of claim 12 comprising hydroxyapatite, calcium phosphate or calcium sulfite
28. (New) The method of claim 21 further comprising positioning the cannula with a trocar.
29. (New) The method of claim 21 further comprising placement of a second immobilization/fusion element within the opening of the sacroiliac joint.
30. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the immobilization/fusion element is associated with a bioactive agent.
31. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein the bioactive active agent comprises bone morphogenic protein or a cytokine effective to stimulate bone marrow growth.
32. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the immobilization/fusion element comprises a screw.
33. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein the screw is a self-tapping screw.
34. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the immobilization/fusion element comprises an unthreaded pin.

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35. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the immobilization/fusion element has a central channel and is inserted over a guide pin.

36. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein the drilling step is performed using a drilling guide.